



Set Up Your Classroom to **ENCOURAGE.....REUSE**

Grade level

K-6

FOCUS

Reusing materials that otherwise would go into the waste stream.

SKILLS

Creative thinking, problem solving, applying lessons learned.

MATERIALS

Reusable things and imagination.

SOME OF THESE IDEAS AND PROJECTS MAY BE NEW AND SOME MAY BE FAMILIAR. EITHER WAY, HAVE FUN AND BE CREATIVE WITH THEM!

- Set up a scrap box for single-sided school paper. Students can put in old homework, scratch paper, completed handouts, etc. The paper can be reused for in-class work, doing math problems, or making scrap tablets (see back page). Set up a separate scrap box for construction or craft paper to reuse in art projects. Have the students decorate the boxes with reused paper, crayons or markers to make them flashy and encourage their use and reuse!
- Have a contest (weekly or biweekly) for students to reuse a piece of paper for as long as possible.
- If you can purchase your classroom party supplies, choose reusable cups, utensils and plates. If this is too costly, encourage your students to bring in their own party cups, plates and utensils. Use snacks that don't require utensils.
- Reuse your party decorations from year to year or have students make the decorations from reused scraps.
- Use the toilet roll cardboard for a hamster or gerbil tunnel.
- Reuse empty milk cartons or pop bottles for planting seeds.
- Use pop tops and bottle caps for counting activities.
- Reuse glass jars or soda bottles for terrariums, bugs or rooting plants.
- Reuse paper bags for book covers. Leftover gift wrap works well too.
- Reuse plastic tubs for odds 'n ends containers.
- Have students bring in water bottles for reuse throughout the school year.
- Reuse newsprint for protection underneath a messy art project.
- Have a book swap with another classroom.
- If the district is in charge of ordering all supplies, have the class send a letter to encourage them to purchase recycled paper and other supplies.